

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

housing;

stop means on said housing to hold said spool in said housing while said supply of cutting line is being wound onto said spool.

Claim 2 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

2. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said feed mechanism includes a spring-action member;

said stop means opposes action of said spring-action member when the head is opened to render said spool accessible from the outside.

Claim 3 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

3. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said stop means includes retention members that act against the force of said spring-action member, preventing said spring action member from escaping from the housing when the housing is open to enable said supply of cutting line to be wound onto the spool.

Claim 4 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

4. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 3, wherein said retention members comprise anti-rotation means for manual rotation of the spool in a winding direction and prevent or obstruct rotation in an unwinding direction.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Please replace claim 5 as follows.

5. (Amended) Grass-cutting head as claimed 1, wherein:

31
said feed mechanism comprises stop teeth integral with the spool and arresting stops engaging with said stop teeth to define angularly offset positions of the spool;

5
said feed mechanism includes an actuating slider is provided to engage and disengage of said stop teeth and said arresting stops causing an angular step by step rotation of said spool, the action of the actuating slider being opposed by a spring-action member.

Claim 6 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

6. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

5
said feed mechanism comprises in combination an actuating slider, a first series of teeth integral with said spool and a second series of teeth integral with said spool, teeth of the first series engaging with a first stop or group of stops on said housing and teeth of the second series engaging with a second stop or group of stops on said housing, positions of arrest of said spool defined by the first series of teeth and by the first stop or group of stops being angularly offset relative to positions of arrest of said spool defined by the second series of teeth and by the second stop or group of stops;

10
and movement of said actuating slider causes an axial movement of the spool between two positions to bring the teeth of the first series or the teeth of the second series alternately into engagement with their respective stops, the spring-action member exerting a force on the spool.

Claim 7 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

7. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein said feed mechanism comprises two series of stop teeth integral with said spool and engaging with moveable stops actuated by an actuating slider, action of said actuating slider being opposed by a spring-action member.

✓
Please replace claim 8 as follows.

8. (Amended) Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
said housing includes a first housing portion, through which extends an axial hub of a rotary drive, and said spool being placed in said first housing portion;
a support supporting said spool, said support being mounted on said axial hub and elastically pressed against said first housing portion by said spring-action member;
axially elongate openings in said support, through which pass said moveable stops carried by said actuating slider and engage with the teeth on the spool; and
an annular cover closes said housing and extends around the support for said spool.

Claim 9 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

9. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 8, wherein said support has end teeth engaging with corresponding end teeth on said first housing portion.

Claim 10 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

10. head as claimed in claim 9, wherein said end teeth are shaped so as to allow rotation

of the support and of the spool in a winding direction and prevent rotation in an opposite direction.

Please replace claim 11 as follows.

43 11. (Amended) Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 8, wherein said support for said spool has a cylindrical wall around which the spool is placed and said support also includes a supporting collar supporting said spool.

Claim 12 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

12. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 11, wherein said support has a cylindrical support in which said actuating slider moves, the actuating slider being elastically pressed by said spring-action member.

Claim 13 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

13. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
a generally cylindrical closing wall extends from said supporting collar, said annular cover is mounted on said cylindrical closing wall.

Claim 14 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

14. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 13, wherein:
a circular skirt defines a circumferential wall of the housing, said annular cover has an

edge that embraces said circular skirt.

Claim 15 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

15. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 5, wherein said spool presses, under the action of said spring-action member, against said retention means integral with the housing.

Claim 16 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

16. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 15, wherein said antirotation means are fitted between the said retention members and said spool.

Claim 17 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

17. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 16, wherein said anti-rotation means comprise a layer of friction material.

Claim 18 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

18. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 16, wherein said anti-rotation means comprise teeth.

Claim 19 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

19. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 18, wherein said teeth are integral with the spool.

Claim 20 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

20. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 19, wherein said teeth engage with said retention members.

Claim 21 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

21. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 21, wherein said retention members have complementary teeth to the teeth on the spool.

Claim 22 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

22. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 15, wherein said retention members comprise one or more projections integral with a circumferential wall of the housing and projecting into its interior to form a rest for said spool.

Claim 23 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

23. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 22, wherein said projection includes an annular collar.

Claim 24 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

24. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 22, wherein said projections include tabs spaced apart and forming resting points distributed circumferentially around the periphery of said spool.

Claim 25 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

25. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 22, wherein said projections include radial pegs spaced apart and forming resting points distributed circumferentially around the periphery of said spool.

Claim 26 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

26. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 22, wherein said projection or projections are mounted on the circumferential wall of the housing.

Claim 27 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

27. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 22, wherein said projections include spring-action tabs formed in one piece with said circumferential wall of the housing.

Claim 28 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

28. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 15, wherein said retention members are located in the central region of the spool.

Claim 29 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

29. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 28, wherein said retention members are engaged on an axial hub in the head.

Claim 30 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

30. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 28, wherein said retention members include a system of elastic snap engagements extending through an axial through hole in said spool in order to engage on said housing.

Claim 31 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

31. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 30, wherein said retention members comprise a sleeve extending axially through said axial hole of the spool and ending in snap-engaging spring-action tabs, in the interior of which is a seat for engagement of an axial hub, said seat having a cross section such as to be coupled in torsion with the said axial hub.

Claim 32 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

32. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 28, wherein said retention members comprise spring-action projections integral with said housing and extending through an axial through hole in the spool, for snap engagement with the edge of said spool.

Claim 33 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

33. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 15, wherein said retention members include a collar coaxial with the spool, engaged on the circumferential wall of the housing and forming a retention stop for said spring-action member.

Claim 34 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

34. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 33, wherein said collar is integral with fasteners forming spring-action tabs that engage in corresponding seats let into the circumferential wall of the housing.

Claim 35 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

35. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 33, wherein said collar is situated beneath an upper cover of said housing, said actuating slider projecting from the opposite side of the housing.

Claim 36 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

36. Grass-cutting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spool has projections to facilitate rotation of the spool by hand in the housing in order to cause the supply of line to be wound up.

Claim 37 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

37. A cutting head comprising:

a housing;

a spool rotatably mounted in said housing, cutting line being windable on said spool;

a feed mechanism for rotating said spool in an unwinding direction in said housing and

5 feeding cutting line off of said spool;

a winding mechanism for rotating said spool in a winding direction while said spool is in said housing and winding cutting line onto said spool;

a stop connected to said housing and blocking separation of said spool from said housing during winding of cutting line by said winding mechanism.

Claim 38 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

38. A cutting head in accordance with claim 37, wherein:

said winding mechanism blocks unwinding of cutting line from said spool;

said feed mechanism bypasses said winding mechanism to feed cutting line off said spool.

Claim 39 has not been changed by this Amendment and remains as follows:

39. A cutting head in accordance with claim 37, wherein:

said stop and said winding mechanism share common structure.

Please add the following new claim

40. A cutting head comprising:

a housing;

a spool rotatably mounted in said housing, cutting line being windable on said spool;

a feed mechanism for rotating said spool in an unwinding direction in said housing and feeding cutting line off of said spool;

5